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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03674 240538Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W
---------- 044886
P R 231500Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4777
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3674

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY
SUBJECT: SAUDI/KUWAITI EFFORTS TO MEDIATE EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN DISPUTE

1. I HAD OCCASION THIS MORNING TO INQUIRE OF POLITICAL DIRECTOR SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY (MANSOURI) AS TO STATE OF PLAY CONCERNING RECENTLY ABORTED MEETING BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN PRIME MINISTERS WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN RIYADH UNDER SAUDI AND KUWAITI AUSPICES.

2. MANSOURI SAID THAT PRINCE SAUD IS STILL IN CAIRO ON THAT SUBJECT BUT HAS ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT PROBLEM REMAINS AS IT WAS WHEN MEETING HERE WAS POSTPONED, I.E., QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SINAI II SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. HE SAID THE POSTPONEMENT INVOLVED LOSS OF FACE FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER PERHAPS IF TWO HAD BEEN URGED TO MEET AND SETTLE THEIR PROBLEM BEFORE BEING ASKED TO COME TO RIYADH. I COMMENTED THAT BOTH HAD ALREADY DISPLAYED RELUCTANCE TO DO ANYTHING BUT SHOUT AT EACH OTHER FROM A DISTANCE, SO SAUDI/KUWAITI EFFORT TO BRING THEM TOGETHER SEEMED ONLY POSSIBILITY. MANSOURI DID NOT INDICATE MUCH OPTIMISM, BUT
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SAID PRINCE SAUD WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE

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PARTIES CONVENE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.
PORTER

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NNN

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